



## Social Democrat Premier Aims for Major Victory In German State Election

By Henry Tanner  
*International Herald Tribune*

BONN — Johannes Rau, the Social Democrat running for re-election as state premier of North Rhine-Westphalia on Sunday, has set his sights on winning an absolute majority in the state assembly.

This would enable him to govern West Germany's most populous and most industrialized state for another five years without entering into any alliances or agreements.

Mr. Rau, according to most of the opinion polls, will come very close, with a few thousand votes making the difference.

The vote in North Rhine-Westphalia is regarded as the most important state election since Chancellor Helmut Kohl won a landslide victory in the last national elections just over two years ago. The next national election will be in 1987, and Mr. Rau is seen as a potential opponent to Mr. Kohl.

About 1.5 million voters, roughly one-third of the country's electorate, will be able to vote Sunday.

Mr. Rau, 54, the son of a Protestant preacher and one of the most accomplished politicians in the country, has been running a folksy, highly personal campaign stressing local issues and skirting some of the weightier ideological questions on which his party and Mr. Kohl's governing coalition differ at the national level. His aim, his aides say, is to win over Christian Democratic votes.

His Christian Democratic opponent, Bernhard Worms, by contrast, was a virtual unknown until Chancellor Kohl made him his party's leader in North Rhine-Westphalia in a surprise move a year ago. He has been campaigning in Mr. Kohl's shadow.

The election will also be watched

for its impact on the political and personal contest that is going on within the leadership of the Social Democratic Party.

Although Mr. Rau disclaims all political ambitions beyond his own state, he is being pushed by party centrists as the man who should lead the Social Democrats in the next general election.

Another leading candidate for this role is Oskar Lafontaine, the young new state premier of Saar. Mr. Lafontaine won an absolute majority in the Saar state assembly two months ago in another highly personal but much more ideological campaign.

Both Mr. Rau and Mr. Lafontaine are disciples of Willy Brandt, the party president. But Mr. Lafontaine would lead the party sharply left on major international and domestic issues while Mr. Rau would move it toward the center.

Some commentators in the West German press have been saying that Mr. Rau has set himself an almost impossible goal in announcing that he wants an absolute majority in the state assembly.

He has had an absolute majority in the outgoing assembly, but in vastly different circumstances.

In the last state election, in 1980, neither the centrist Free Democrats nor the leftist Greens obtained the 5 percent of the vote required for representation in the assembly. Mr. Rau only had to beat the Christian Democrats to get the majority, and this he did by a 6-percent margin.

This time the Free Democrats are believed to have a good chance to get over the 5-percent hurdle, and they are now in a coalition with Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats. In 1980 they were still allied with the Social Democrats.

The Greens, though in decline for the past few months, are also likely to do better than in 1980.

encountering steep increases in food costs.

How fraught with difficulties the process will be can be gauged from the case that party leaders have taken to prepare the public. For months before the current round of increases, officials were putting consumers on notice that strains

## Roof Over Pool In Switzerland Falls, Killing 12

Reuters

USTER, Switzerland. — Twelve persons, including six children, died Thursday night when the concrete ceiling of an indoor pool collapsed on about 40 swimmers, officials of this Zurich suburb said Friday.

The ceiling fell in virtually

one piece and covered the pool like an airtight lid. Only at the diving board was there an escape route for those who struggled to safety. Most of the victims drowned but some were crushed by the concrete slab weighing about 160 tons, Mayr or Walter Flach said.

Among the survivors was Fraenzi Nydegger, the Swiss women's 200-meter breaststroke champion, who was taken to a hospital in shock.

Some 350 rescuers worked through the night, breaking through the concrete with drills and pumping out water. Mr. Flach said no survivors were found beneath the fallen ceiling.

Ernst Waedenswil, the engineer who led the construction of the pool in 1971, said that the ceiling supports, made of an alloy of chrome, nickel and steel, had rusted. "I cannot explain that," he said. "It should not happen." He said that many other Swiss swimming pools were constructed the same way.



Divers search for victims through a hole in the concrete roof that fell on a pool in Uster, Switzerland, killing 12.

## Food Prices Go Up Sharply in Beijing Government Continues Push Toward Market Economy

By John F. Burns  
*New York Times Service*

BEIJING — The steepest increases in food prices since the 1949 Communist revolution took effect Friday for the 9.5 million residents in Beijing.

Taking a major political risk, the Chinese government raised prices in the capital by up to 70 percent for pork, 130 percent for beef, 18 percent for eggs and 340 percent for yellow croaker, a popular fish.

At the same time, city residents were promised a monthly per capita grant of 7.50 yuan, the equivalent of \$2.62, to help meet the high costs.

When Chiang Kai-shek was in power before 1949, few things eroded confidence as fast as the spiraling inflation that gave rise to banknotes denominated in millions of yuan. Now, the Communists who supplanted the Chiang government and virtually abolished inflation are deliberately pushing up prices on a wide range of consumer goods, food in particular.

The increase involved calculated political and economic risks. From the outset of the program in 1979, officials putting into effect the policies of Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, have been determined to replace what they refer to as the irrational pricing system established under Mao.

By the end of the week, prices of meat like the Chongwenmen Market in central Beijing had little left but fatty scraps of pork and low-grade samples of dried fish. A run on canned foods left shelves similarly bare.

The move is part of a drive by the government to introduce market mechanisms into the economy. After years of prices that remained the same or rose hardly at all, millions of people in urban China are

only by allowing prices to rise and fall in response to market conditions can the country free itself from the burdens of scarcity and over-supply, shoddy quality and the other problems that beset the typical Communist economy.

No other nation that is formally wedded to the doctrines of Marx, not even Hungary, the most economically adventurous member of the Soviet bloc, has tried anything as far-reaching.

Although Mr. Deng and his associates insist that the state will be on hand as a referee, they are convinced that prosperity will come only through the fullest possible application of market principles that most Communist countries, China included, have spent decades to protect themselves.

Usually, the warnings were accompanied by pledges that the government would do everything it could to ease the transition, but there have been periodic bouts of "panic buying" as shoppers sought to protect themselves.

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Men like Tian Jiyun, the deputy prime minister who has principal responsibility for price changes, believe that unleashing the power of supply and demand is the key to the entire modernization program set forth by Mr. Deng.

It is an article of faith among those involved in the program that at both ends of the economic chain, producers and consumers must be weaned from a system of large state subsidies that has entrenched inefficiencies and drained at least 20 percent of all revenue from the government treasury.

As a further hedge against popular discontent, the government has so far excluded food grains, edible oils and basic vegetables like cabbage from the price changes, ensuring that commodities that form the basis of the national diet will continue to be available at heavily subsidized prices.

## Labor Panel Says Soviet Violated Conventions

By Iain Guez  
*International Herald Tribune*

GENEVA — A panel of the International Labor Organization has asserted that the government of the Soviet Union is violating a key ILO convention by refusing to permit the formation of independent trade unions.

The panel's report, released here

Thursday, was prepared for the annual conference in June of the ILO, a Geneva-based United Nations agency that monitors work conditions and living standards for workers.

Its publication follows recent

complaints from East European governments that the ILO's human rights criteria are biased against them and Poland's notice of withdrawal from the organization last year to protest an ILO report urging Warsaw to restore trade union freedoms.

The 20-member panel, made up of international lawyers, reviews the application of the ILO's conventions, which are binding on the nations that have ratified them. Last year, 32 governments changed their legislation in response to the panel's findings.

In its comments on the Soviet Union, the panel said that the Soviet Constitution and 1971 labor laws excluded the possibility of independent unions in favor of a "monopoly" system of unions.

This, it said, was "in contradiction" with ILO Convention 87, which allows for freedom of association. The Soviet Union ratified the convention in 1956.

The panel's conclusions followed several years of strain between the ILO and socialist countries over the suppression of independent unions in Poland, the Soviet Union and Romania. The three governments have rejected the organization's authority to consider the complaints.

The Soviet and Polish members of the panel disassociated themselves from this year's criticism of the Soviet Union, complaining that freedom of association should be interpreted differently in socialist countries than in Western democracies. This, they said, had been deliberately ignored by the panel.

Although Mr. Deng and his associates insist that the state will be on hand as a referee, they are convinced that prosperity will come only through the fullest possible application of market principles that most Communist countries, China included, have spent decades to protect themselves.

The problem lies in the transition from an economy in which the government has manipulated prices to keep some items — not only food, but also rent, electricity, children's toys and tents of thousands of other goods — unrealistically cheap.

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Earlier this year, a special ILO investigation found that the West German government had discriminated against members of that nation's Communist Party through a policy that excludes party members from employment in the public sector.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Murdoch to Sell Chicago Sun-Times

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Sun-Times is going up for sale for the second time in less than two years so that its owner, Rupert Murdoch, can buy a local television station.

"Yes, it's true that Rupert Murdoch has decided to sell the Sun-Times," the publisher, Robert Page, said Thursday in a memorandum to the newspaper's employees. "He has determined that he will comply with Federal Communications Commission regulations which now prohibit cross-ownership of newspapers and TV stations at the same market."

Mr. Murdoch and a business partner, Marvin Davis, have agreed to buy seven television stations from Metromedia Inc. for \$2 billion, including a station in Chicago and one in New York. Mr. Murdoch owns daily newspapers in both cities, but said he was "under no pressure" to sell the New York Post, adding that "we are considering all our options."

**New Violence Reported in Sri Lanka**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil rebels fighting for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka flattened a police station on Mannar Island with mortar and rocket fire Friday, killing at least five officers, the authorities said.

The United News of India, meanwhile, reported Friday in New Delhi that more than 75 Tamils were killed Thursday in northern Sri Lanka in a "rampage" by army troops to avenge an ambush by guerrillas. The dispatch quoted separate telegrams sent to President Jimmy Carter, secretary, M. A. Alahakoon, and the president of Valvedentiai, the

zeus Committee, K. Sivathambi.

The bodies of at least 40 men, women and children were lying on roads in the area, according to the messages. In Oorai, 23 youths perished when they were herded into the community center and the building was blown up, the telegrams said. Twelve other village youths were lined up and shot to death, they said. United News said the killings were in reprisal for a mine attack on an army convoy Wednesday in Valvedentiai, a fishing town on the northern coast.

### Pope Faces Difficult Netherlands Visit

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II starts a five-day trip Saturday to the Netherlands, where his conservative policies have run into opposition from some of the world's most liberal Roman Catholics.

In advance of the papal visit, posters containing death threats and calls for riots have appeared in Amsterdam. The "Call-Up for Anti-Papal Rioting" urged people to "get" the pope, describing him as a fascist. The Vatican has acknowledged the problems facing John Paul during his trip, which also includes stops in Luxembourg and Belgium. "Today the Dutch church is in a state of crisis," the Vatican newspaper said in a front-page commentary Wednesday.

"Progressive" Dutch Catholics — and their priests — question the church's bans on artificial birth control, marriage for priests and the ability of laymen to say Mass, as well as the position of women in the church and papal infidelity on doctrinal matters. The split between "progressives" and "traditionalists" polarizes the approximately 3.5 million Dutch Catholics, who make up about 40 percent of the population.

### Liu Murderer Retracts Testimony

TAIPEI (AP) — Chen Chi-li, a convicted gang leader, retracted Friday in earlier testimony that Taiwan's former military intelligence chief ordered him to murder Henry Lin, a Chinese-American writer whose writings were critical of the Taiwan government. Mr. Lin, 52, was shot to death Oct. 15 in California.

Mr. Chen told the Taiwan High Court on Friday that he had implicated Vice Admiral Wong Hsi-ting, the former intelligence director, out of anger. "It was a misunderstanding," he said.

A military court later sentenced Mr. Wong to life in prison for the killing. Mr. Chen last month by the Taipei district court.

### For the Record

A U.S. judge rejected on Friday requests by lawyers for Claus von Bulow to dismiss one of two charges of attempted murder or declare a mistrial. Mr. von Bulow's lawyers at his Providence, Rhode Island, trial said that prosecutors at an earlier trial had concealed information crucial to the defense.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, a disease first reported just over four years ago, has struck more than 10,000 Americans and killed 49 percent of them, the national Centers for Disease Control reported Thursday in Atlanta.

Helga Gratz, wife of Austria's foreign minister, Leopold Gratz, was found dead in her Vienna apartment Friday. The police said she had suffered a heart attack believed to have been caused by ingestion of medicines and alcohol. She had been separated from her husband for several months.

Eleven Yugoslavs were sentenced Friday in Zagreb to prison terms ranging from seven months to 15 years for terrorist activities aimed at splitting Croatia from the rest of the country.

A bomb damaged a NATO natural gas pipeline in northwestern Germany on Friday, the police said. No claim of responsibility was immediately made.

## Budget Plan Is Approved By Senate

(Continued from Page 1)

Assumptions of the Reagan adminis-

tration.

Mr. Dole rounded up the votes

he needed by making last-minute

concessions to restore spending for some programs, including Amtrak, the national passenger railroad. Other programs that were saved

included the Small Business Ad-

ministration, the Job Corps pro-

gram to train youths, and mass

transit operating subsidies.

Despite these and other steps, the plan was said by Mr. Dole's staff to meet the leadership's targets for deficit reduction. It would end or gradually eliminate 15 programs, including the program to share federal revenue with cities and Urban Development Action Grants to local governments.

The agreement on the level for the military budget was unexpected, but reflects the recognition of the political reality on Capitol Hill: the evaporating of support for continuation of the military buildup of the last four years.

Mr. Reagan, in his budget for 1986, had requested a 6-percent increase over inflation for the Pentagon in 1986. But he was surprised many by compromising with the Republican leadership on a 3-percent figure. Mr. Dole narrowly lost a vote last week to sustain the president's request for the 3-percent increase.

The House of Representatives is also moving toward a position that would give the Pentagon no more than an increase to cover inflation. The House Armed Services Committee agreed Wednesday to a military authorization bill that only allows for an increase equal to inflation in 1986.

The one-year freeze on Social Security would save about \$6 billion in 1986 and about \$22 billion over three years. There would be no extra increase to make up for the one-year freeze, which would also apply to other federal pension and benefit programs.

## Shultz, Israelis Meet on Role Of Palestinians in Peace Talks

(Continued from Page 1)

visiting Israel, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres to plant trees dedicated to unknown persons who were not Jewish who aided Jews near Australia.

Mr. Shultz's speech was delivered in restrained tones and represented Mr. Shultz's belief that the survival of Israel can be seen as a victory of



# INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

Published With The New York Times and The Washington Post

## While Statesmen Quail

Most rich countries want international negotiations to reduce barriers to trade. France's refusal to agree to a date for starting a fresh round makes Mr. Reagan a bit glum and Mr. Mitterrand a trifle cocky. It is doubtful whether this will affect the present economic climate one way or the other.

These negotiations are slow — the last round took six years — and their effects are even slower. This is an argument for starting sooner rather than later, but six or twelve months here or there is not going to make or break the world economy. The Reagan thesis is that an early date is essential to blunt the new protectionist drive in Washington. But those lobbies are not that simpleminded. They know that the benefits of a new round would not be felt in their constituencies before the 1990s, and what interests they are profits and elections in the 1980s.

It is also doubtful if the political gains and losses will be great. Mr. Mitterrand hopes that his refusal to be pushed around by the Americans will stand his party in good stead in the March 1986 elections. But political memories are short, and he may have a good deal of bad economic news to face before he goes to the polls. Mr. Reagan can hardly lose. He has no election to go into.

Many arguments against an early start were poor, particularly those seeking to shield agricultural protection from the negotiations. The European Community's policy has paid some farmers handsomely but cost Europe dear. At present it absorbs at least 10 times the amount its members feel able to pay their European social fund to support job creation and training for the unemployed — a vastly superior endeavor. America, too, is spending huge sums ineffi-

ciently to protect farmers, although it promises (or threatens, according to the farm lobby) radical reform. Japan is similarly profligate, and is doing little about it. If trade talks cannot aim to reduce competitive farm support, one might as well go home.

Another source of reluctance stems from fears that the new round will concentrate too heavily on freeing up trade in banking, insurance and information technology where, at great loss to the public, liberalization has not gone far but where it is alleged that America and Japan would scoop the pool. If countries are only going to liberalize in fields where they feel already fully competitive, again we could all pack up, because this is, ultimately, an argument against any freedom of trade at all: Every country is more competitive in some fields and less in others.

France has a more valid point when arguing that it is not the duty of the seven richest countries to decide whether and when a new round of GATT negotiations should start. That body has some 90 members, not just seven, and many of them doubt whether a new round would benefit them.

In countless OECD meetings the rich governments have pledged to roll back the obstacles erected in recent years to trade in the products the poor countries produce efficiently — ships and shoes and sugar cane, and textile goods and steel. When, ask the poor, is this rollback going to start? Economic statesmanship would dictate a quick start now, enabling the poor to buy more from the rich and pay their debts.

But statesmanship is in short supply as leaders quail before the supposed electoral power of the lobbies of the inefficient.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

## Does Hanoi Want Respect?

The party is over in Vietnam, where American television networks have lent their cameras to a self-serving celebration of Hanoi's only real achievement: conquest. Parades make pictures. What got scant attention was the off-camera horror of unrelenting persecution even of former comrades. Some victims risked their lives by talking to Barbara Crossette of The New York Times and other reporters. Their story is appalling, their fate a major obstacle to any reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States.

One category of victims is pilloried for middle-class origins, Western education or past involvement with Americans. Ten years after its conquest of the South, Hanoi concedes that it still holds 10,000 people in "re-education" camps, but the actual number is probably 40,000. Reporters who were admitted to a special visitors' center were blandly told that the prisoners claim to remain in detention. Then why keep these camps off-limits?

A second category of victim is accused of "backwardness" — insufficient zeal for Hanoi's Prussian brand of Communism. At least 5,000 people are held in five work camps. Outspoken Buddhists, Catholics and Protestants have been jailed or are under house arrest. Thich Tri Quang, the Buddhist monk

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Trans-Atlantic Confidence

President Reagan was at his best in his appearance before the European Parliament on Wednesday. It was the occasion for underlining the record of trans-Atlantic striving since the defeat of Nazi Germany, and he did it with modesty and some eloquence and a nice touch of history. His heckles provided noisy evidence of American success in helping Western Europe to make itself unprecedentedly united, stable and democratic in the years since Europeans "wept in the rubble."

President Reagan offered his familiar views about Soviet power — in a tone sufficiently restrained to satisfy the broad European desire for no jostling. In almost simultaneous counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev was offering the Kremlin's perspective on the same sweep of history. His speech bristled with the pride in Soviet arms and the bitterness toward the West that commonly mark the Soviet attitude toward World War II. Even on a day that was bound to be given over to nationalistic celebration, however, the new Soviet leader was careful, as was President Reagan, to keep a door open for dealings with the other great power.

Forty years later the continent that was the center stage of World War II remains the great prize in the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is the place — Eastern

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

## FROM OUR MAY 11 PAGES, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1910: First President of the World'

WASHINGTON — Mr. James Barcus, of New York, has sent to all the Embassies here a book poking fun at Theodore Roosevelt. The title is "The First President of the World," and the content is a speech supposed to be made in 1920 at The Hague by a delegate called Nil Desino, who is addressing a convention of all the nations of the earth, nominating Mr. Roosevelt for "the job of being President of the World Federation." Spelled backward the delegate's name becomes clearer. According to the speech, Mr. Roosevelt has the nomination "cinched." The point is made that his selection will result in all the armies and navies being placed on a peace footing, while Mr. Roosevelt is a man "to pull down any revolution."

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92200 Nanterre, France. Tel: (1) 747-1265. Telex: 612718 (Herald). Cable: Herald Park. ISSN: 0254-8032.

Directeur de la publication: Walter N. Teper.  
Managing Dir. U.K.: Robin Mackintosh, 63 Long Acre, London WC2, Tel: 01-240-2002. Tel: 01-260-6721.  
Gen. Mgr. W. Germany: W. Lauterbach, Friedberg, 15, 6000 Frankfurt/M. Tel: 069/26555. Tel: 069/26555.  
S.A. capital de 1,200,000 F. RCS Nanterre B 132021126. Comptoir Particulier No. 61337.  
U.S. subscription: \$322 yearly. Second-class postage paid at Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.  
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## Too Much Politicking Befogged the Bonn Summit

By Flora Lewis

LONDON — Despite the protests, President Reagan's trip to Europe worked out as a useful demonstration that the United States still gives prime concern to its Atlantic partners even though its Pacific links have greatly expanded. The value will be enhanced if the tour leaves the White House with more awareness that not everybody sees the world from the same perspective.

There was some sign of this happening in Bonn, Madrid and Strasbourg. A member of one summit delegation said that the Americans behaved like "pussycats" after the lemons roared that responded from Washington in advance of the talks.

The American effort to extract a statement of approval for "star wars" was withdrawn, and the Europeans were given to understand that they could participate in research cost-free. They have only to bid for contracts financed by the United States.

The French block on agreement for world trade negotiations in 1986 was accepted, if not gracefully, at least without any table-pounding.

Especially, the previously advertised demand that America's partners speed up economic expansion "to take up the slack" due to slowing U.S. growth faded quietly away.

It seemed obvious that Mr. Reagan and his team were subdued because of the uproar over his thoughts visit to the military cemetery at Bitburg. That put a damper on stern ideas about showing muscle to allies.

One little noticed, obscured

by the confrontation with France, was an unusual new agreement on basic economic policies. In order to avoid normally acid haggling, it was decided that the Bonn communiqué should let each country state its own objectives in separate paragraphs.

They turned out to be all much the same, stressing the need to create jobs and fight unemployment although without risking more inflation, to encourage small and medium-sized business and to break down "structural rigidities," which is mainly a euphemism for union-bashing.

A few commentators took the single theme to mean that Europe had converted to Reagan administration supply-side economics. It isn't really so. Nor does anyone imagine that the Europeans have the slightest chance of copying America's recovery by running up colossal deficits and crowding them with a flood of foreign capital. For better or for worse, nobody else has that opportunity.

But there has been a reversal of attitudes away from the idea that governments should be the main economic actor and back to reliance on private initiative. This is an important swing in the cycle of Western opinion, and it does reflect a European shift toward economic conservatism as enshrined in Reaganomics.

The convergence is a reinforced force for Western cohesion. Unfortunately, it is being countered by a continuing rise in shorthanded national politicking, instead of producing a consensus for statesmanship to deal with problems beyond everybody's next election.

France has always been basically

protectionist, and Frenchmen like to see their leader thumb his nose at a superpower. But the country stands to lose more than it can possibly gain by trying to force West Germany to choose between close ties with the United States and France. Every time Paris has toyed with that tactic, Bonn has warned that there is no choice because France cannot assure West Germany's defense.

French-West German strains are ominous for Europe, for the United States and for the West as a whole. No doubt there will be a patching-up effort now. Still, it's a pity when politicians' tricks stir unnecessary problems. It is hard enough to hold Western policy on a steady course as it is.

The New York Times

## A Scofflaw's Contempt Of Court?

By Edwin M. Yoder Jr.

WASHINGTON — In the latest of the Nicaraguan complaint against the United States in the World Court, Washington is treating international jurisdiction as Andrew Jackson once treated the judgment of John Marshall's Supreme Court: with impudent contempt. And there lies a great irony.

When the World War II veterans asked themselves 40 years ago what values they had fought for, one led all the rest: the rule of law. Like World War I, of which it was in so many ways a continuation, the war of 1939-45 again contested the outlaw status that might makes right and that power writes its own law.

To reinforce the costly triumph over that old but unacceptable legacy, the United States was determined to pursue whatever steps legally could devise to strengthen international law. There was the founding of the United Nations, the brief flourishing of the World Federation, and, at first resisted by Britain, the hold tribunals for war crimes.

In those trials a standard of accountability would be laid down, and not by a sham, either. Unless a defendant could be acquitted (as van Patten and Schatz later were at Nuremberg), such proceedings would be, in the words of America's chief prosecutor, Robert Jackson, "a solid chalice held to our own lips."

In 1946, America at last, adhered to the World Court, in a successful

### America is behaving with the incivility of Khomeini's Iran.

end to a battle first waged many years earlier by Republican statesmen like Elihu Root and Charles Evans Hughes and backed by Republican presidents from Harding on.

By a disturbing irony, the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe finds the Reagan administration refusing to respond to the complaints lodged at the World Court by Nicaragua a year ago.

In briefs prepared by able U.S. lawyers, Nicaraguan charges that, in subsidizing the "contras" and in bluntly vowed to force the change of regime in Managua, the United States is acting lawlessly. Washington responds — but not formally, and not in court — that the shoe is on the other foot. It says that Nicaragua is unspecified aggression against El Salvador, is the outlaw.

To be sure, a World Court judgment on such tangled conflicts might be, as Lincoln said of a pre-emptive Emancipation Proclamation, "like the pope's bell against the comet."

But the merits of the dispute are at the moment secondary. Embarrassingly, the Reagan administration has declined to come into court and say before an impartial international tribunal its defense against Nicaragua's accusations. In this it is behaving with the incivility of Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran, which five years ago refused to honor the World Court's condemnation of the illegal detention of U.S. Embassy personnel.

The excuses thus far offered at the State Department are self-serving. They can only bolster the impression that the case for subsidizing the "contras" or for a trade embargo is too feeble, in terms of the law the United States pretends to honor, to stand scrutiny. A case too delicate to be explained to an international court adds unaccountability to contempt.

All this has little to do with one's view of the Sandinists, or of the right's "self-defense" that Washington claims. The United States needs to clarify for itself its responsibility to a world menaced by lawless force. The gentle invariably welcome judges but not police. The Reagan administration, contrarily, seems to want police but no judges. No scheme of international law and order can conceivable work without both.

It is depressing that a Republican administration should be in contempt of the World Court. Most of the leading 20th century spirits of the Republican Party fought long and hard to acknowledge its jurisdiction. President Reagan's hero Calvin Coolidge battled for adherence to the World Court as long ago as 1924.

America's leaders at the end of World War II had no doubts about the obligations arising from the war and slaughter, and they firmly put the country behind as much international law as the jealousies of national sovereignty could digest. Now America seems content to sit among the scofflaws, Iran and the Soviet Union giving the raspberry to the sheriff and to the court summons. This is made than an irony. It is a disgrace.

Washington Post Writers Group

## Earnest Readers in Moscow May Not Be Amused

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON — The Moscow International Book Fair is an important event. It is the one time the ordinary Soviet citizen can get his hands on Western books. The lines are long and the place is packed. Soviet citizens come from afar, and wait for hours in line just to see and feel Western books that most of them cannot even read and that none are allowed to take home. Guards at the exits make sure of that.

When they come this year in search of America, they are in for a surprise. The Association of American Publishers, which puts on the most important American exhibit, has just put together its book list. It is hard to know what the average Muscovite will think of it, but for an American it is a document for our time.

The list, the work of a committee chaired by novelist Kurt Vonnegut, contains 313 books. Chairman Vonnegut is convinced, or so he writes in the introduction to the catalogue, that "in a modest way" the selection reflects "how Americans see themselves in the 1980s."

Consider for a start the list's treatment of what has undoubtedly been the most exhaustively debated, politically charged and internationally significant issue of the 1980s: nuclear weapons.

The Muscovite with an interest in the subject and in how Americans see it will find three books. These are "The Fate of the Earth" by Jonathan Schell, "The Fallacy of Star Wars" by the Union of Concerned Scientists, and, for Moscow's taste, "The Butter Battle Book" by Dr. Seuss.

Five books, all of them, but singly and together they have the balance of an Albanian election.

The Schell book argues that deterrence, the foundation of U.S. nuclear strategy, is a dangerous fraud. The Union of Concerned Scientists argues that strategic defense, Mr. Reagan's idea

for a new nuclear strategy, is a dangerous fraud. Dr. Seuss argues — well, the kindly doctor does not argue at all. He tells of the vicious arms race between the Yanks and the Zooks, indistinguishable peoples except for the fact that one batters its bread butter-side up and the other butter-side down. In other words, the Cold War (believed by some to be about constitutionalism and democracy, not etiquette) is a dangerous fraud.

What is wrong with this nuclear collection is not just the obvious bias. Nor that it is anti-American; of the three, only the Seuss book qualifies. What is wrong is that it is supremely self-indulgent. This is vacation reading for the Martha's Vineyard set, a bone-up for the right parties on the summer cocktail circuit.

The committee has a context problem. On Nantucket you can go to the local library for the other side of the argument. But not in Moscow. And the last thing a Pravda reader needs is another treatise on American nuclear policy. Talk about carrying coals to Newcastle.

The nuclear selection gives you the drift. To be sure, most of the 313 books are given over to politically innocuous stuff like baseball, cooking and art. But when it comes to politics, you don't need a weatherman to give you wind direction.

Henry Kissinger savaged by Seymour Hersh. (No Kissinger memoirs.) Lyndon Johnson savaged by Robert Caro. American foreign policy savaged by Jonathan Kwitny. And books by Gloria Steinem, Studs Terkel and the brilliant socialist Michael Harrington. Nothing wrong with these. But where is the balance?

Where are Irving Kristol or Michael Novak or

Thomas Sowell or Robert Nisbet? This list purports to represent American life in the '80s, years marked above all by the rise of conservatism, yet not a single book by a leading neo-conservative has been included. Reaganism may be a bad dream for Vonnegut & Company, but, however deployable, it happens to be the dominant American dream of the '80s. A touch of George Gilder or Richard John Neuhaus might have been as intellectually helpful to Muscovites as it is ideologically inconveniences to the Vonneguts.

When the National Endowment for Democracy contributed \$50,000 to setting up this exhibit, it stipulated that the exhibit "demonstrate the diversity of American society and the strengths of its democratic institutions." No doubt the committee thinks it has done just that. How better to represent democracy than by displaying the American spirit of self-criticism?

That idea is too clever by half. Democracy means dissent, yes and dissent should be represented. But democracy means something else as well: popular government, in this world an even rarer political commodity. (Of the two, you find only dissent in the Soviet Union, for example.) You hardly represent American democracy by refusing to give fair representation to the political direction that Americans have freely chosen for themselves — twice — in the 1980s.

The Vonnegut list tells less about the political diversity of America than about the arrogant insularity of the literary left. What are Muscovites to make of it? At considerable effort and perhaps some risk, they will come to the Book Fair to find an American island in the Soviet sea in which they live. How are they to know they have washed up at an East Hampton book party?



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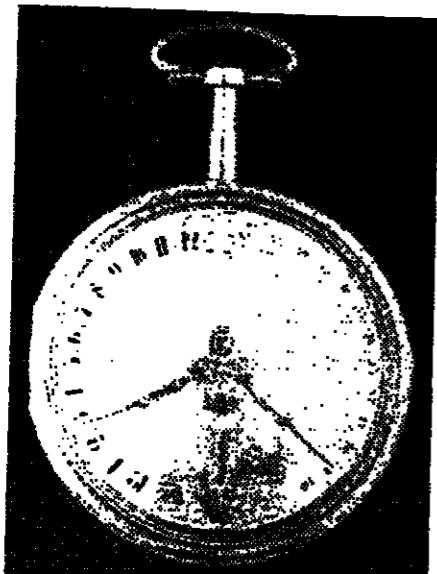
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## ARTS / LEISURE

## Galleries in London: Savoring the Englishness of English Art

By Max Wykes-Joyce  
LONDON — It seems to be the prerogative of foreigners who adopt England as their home to explain the qualities of the indigenous arts to the English. It was the German-born Sir Nikolaus Pevsner who, 30 years ago, wrote that most acute study "The Englishness of English Art" and spent the rest of his life trying to make the English appreciate their architectural heritage in its monumental multi-volume "The Buildings of England." Now it is Hungarian-born Andras Kalman, who has long been a feature of the English art scene with his Crane Kalman Gallery, who insists that we look properly at "Five Very English Artists."

They include:

• James Fenton (1899-1962) one

of whose favorite themes was the suburban man and woman in the street going about their daily business, as in "London Market."

• Alan Lowndes (1921-1978), an apprentice house painter born in impoverished circumstances who became an excellent portrayer in oils of his native industrial North, and in his last ailing years made enchanting landscapes of Gloucestershire, where he had settled with his family.

• L.S. Lowry (1887-1976), famed as artist-in-chief and in-residence to the industrial scene, and less well-known as one of the greatest English marine painters.

• Ruskin Spear (b. 1919), who delights in portraying ordinary Londoners, such as "The Landlady" in the present show.

• Carol Weight (b. 1908), from 1957 through 1973 professor of painting at the Royal College of Art, and not unjustly to be described as a 20th-century Pre-Raphaelite fantasist, as shown in "The Angel of Consolation," where a very modern and ghostly angel hovers over a father and son dressed in morning black, pacing a muddy seaside street.

Five Very English Artists, Crane  
Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton  
Road, London SW3, to June 13.

□

The fashionable and worldly aware aspect of English art is evident in "Cecil Beaton and Friends" at the Paragon Gallery, which opens on May 22. Among the English members of the circle with work in the present show are Lord Gerald Bernac, composer and novelist as well as two-field painter — landscapes in the style of Cotswold, and fantasies on Victorian/Edwardian affectations; Violet Manners, Duchess of Rutland, whose portrait drawings were of a professional quality, as might be expected from one who had been Burne-Jones as drawing master; the short-lived Christopher Wood (1901-1930); Rex Whistler, a quintessential Englishman equally adept at painting murals and designing a bookplate; and Sir Francis Rose, alternately encouraged and denigrated by Gertrude Stein.

Sir Cecil Beaton (1904-1980), renowned as photographer, dramatist, costume and set designer, was also a considerable "straight" painter. The exhibition represents all stages of his work; some of the most interesting are the stage designs he did as an undergraduate at Cambridge University in the early 1920s.

Cecil Beaton & Friends, Paragon  
Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, London  
SW1, to June 21.

□

More recent manifestations of the English tradition are seen in two group shows — "Spring '85" at the Fine Art Society and "Real and Abstract" at the Redfern Gallery. The Fine Art Society show ranges very widely, including sculpture, such as the carved slate relief panel "The Roadmakers" by the little-known 1930s sculptor 1920 by "Roofs of Carcassonne" (1948) and "Composition Blue & Green" (1957). As a pendant there is a separate one-man collection of

work, many of paintings of Cornish landscapes, though one less of France, by Adrian Ryan (b. 1930).

Spring '85, the Fine Art Society,  
148 New Bond Street, London W1,  
to May 31. Real and Abstract/A-  
drian Ryan, Redfern Gallery, 20  
Cork Street, London W1, to June 13.

□

A mystery to those who are not English is the game of cricket. I do not think it is quite any less mysterious

than the art of painting.

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## FOOD

## THE 1,000 CRITICS OF THE ZAGAT REPORT

**H**is friends may not know it, but Lincoln Center chairman Martin Segal is a restaurant critic of considerable clout whose culinary opinions are heeded by thousands of discerning New York diners. Similarly, Japanese-art specialist Margot Ernst has a large and loyal following for her succinct critiques of the city's formal *kaiseki*-style kitchens. *Vogue Brazil's* editor Rudolfo Crespi wields his influence over Gotham's gastronomes with simple, if untempered, superlatives about the places he likes best—and least.

Certainly none of these amateur food mavens holds the individual sway of a Mimi Sheraton or Gael Greene, but their collective value may be unbeatable. Just ask Tim and Nina Zagat. For years the Zagats, husband-and-wife corporate lawyers and restaurant devotees who met at Yale law school, have been polling the dining likes and dislikes of a cross section of sympathetic souls—anyone serious enough about eating out to take time to fill in one of the Zagats' long, small-print, no-nonsense questionnaires.

The result, as New Yorkers are discovering in growing numbers, is the *Zagat* (pronounced za-GAT) *New York City Restaurant Survey*—a handy compendium of dining fact and opinion representing the combined judgments of not one or four or even 104 finicky palates but some 1,000 unnamed reviewers. Started in 1979 as a modest mimeographed sheet passed among a select few, the

Zagat survey is suddenly becoming, with nary an ounce of promotion or advertising, the most popular, comprehensive, up-to-date and, perhaps, most reliable lowdown on the city's dining scene ever published.

Today's Zagat survey is a slim, red, 96-page book as compact as a Barron's pocket guide to stock and bond yields—and no less valuable. More than 500 entries are cited in the 1985 edition. A numbered scale from 0 to 30 ranks each establishment according to food, decor and service. The estimated price of a single meal, with one drink before tip, is provided, as are abbreviations for such relevancies as whether a restaurant is open for service after 11:00 p.m. or on Sundays. There is even an "X" to mark the dreaded no credit card policy. For those seeking specific modes of dining, the guide offers no fewer than 29 special categories—from the obvious ethnic and brunch headings to welcome listings for dancing, best wine lists, fireplaces, even places suitable for singles or for young children. The 1,000 critics best earn their salt in the cryptic comments italicized beneath each restaurant's listing, with a notation from the Zagats indicating whether the remarks were mixed, uniform or even too few to be conclusive. Here is where the people speak and the Zagats show their capable editing.

"Staid Continental with fine roast beef as its main claim to recognition, but that's enough."

Does anybody really need to

know much more than that before sampling the steadfast Adam's Rib on East Seventy-fourth Street? Of Santa Fe on West Sixty-ninth Street, the guide states: "The city's most attractive Mexican with quite good food and great margaritas; try the fish; one drawback—popularity can mean lines." Your best friend isn't likely to put it more clearly.

Nor is pith the guide's only virtue. Sacred bastions like Lutèce, La Côte Basque and the Four Seasons receive an ample and

quent source of inept service at some of New York's more exotic restaurants—are also noted. Where favorite chefs have departed or reservations aren't honored, where portions are stingy and ventilation poor or where otherwise praiseworthy French rooms receive "repeated complaints about haughty service and imperfections that shouldn't exist at the price," the Zagats duly tell us, as they do when their vocal constituency differs widely in verdict from the folks at the



The Zagat Restaurant Survey relies on an army of secret scribblers.

impassioned mix of voter commentary—both good and bad. And practical advice abounds. Fussy uptowners afraid to trek to faraway TriBeCa spots like Capouto Frères are reminded of the extra incentive of "easy parking." Language barriers—a fre-

New York Times  
Just how popular is the little red book? "We sell out every time we restock it," claims Susan Scott, assistant manager of Books & Co. on Madison Avenue, whose regular reorder these days is as

Please turn page

**A**t nine o'clock on a weekday morning, the Hotel Westbury in New York is as comfortably quiet as the downstairs of a country manse. At the front desk a sleepy receptionist repeats the name. "Mrs. Johnson? We got two of them, I think. What's her first name?"

The receptionist echoes its *Lady Bird*. Still unsatisfied, she tries the room number given her as a trill, all-American-looking man looks up from his checkout form with a smile. "You're expected," he says with a trace of a Texas accent. "Jim'll come down for you. He's got the morning shift."

A moment or two later, the elevator opens and Jim appears. It has to be Jim. He, too, is trim and all-American-looking: it's a breed that's easy to recognize when you get accustomed to it. Jim has a Texas accent, too. Right now he looks uncharacteristically sheepish for a Secret Service man. "She was asleep, but she's getting up now," he says apologetically. "We thought you'd be by at ten. She's pretty fast at getting ready, though."

Jim leads the way down a carpeted hall, past an open door where two other agents keep watch, and knocks on the partly closed door at the end of the hall before sticking his head in.

"Yes, please, come in," says the lifting voice within.

Looking hardly a day older than she did as First Lady two decades ago, Lady Bird Johnson rises to greet her visitor with a rush of apologies. "I'm terribly

sorry to have kept you waiting. I hurried as much as I could—" She goes on in this vein for a moment or two, though of course no apology is needed or expected. And what one observes, as she ushers her visitor to a chair and pulls one out for herself, is how in real life, sprung from grainy newspaper photographs, freed for a moment from history as an image of an anguished time, she radiates a rare and unaffected charm that lights up her face when she smiles.

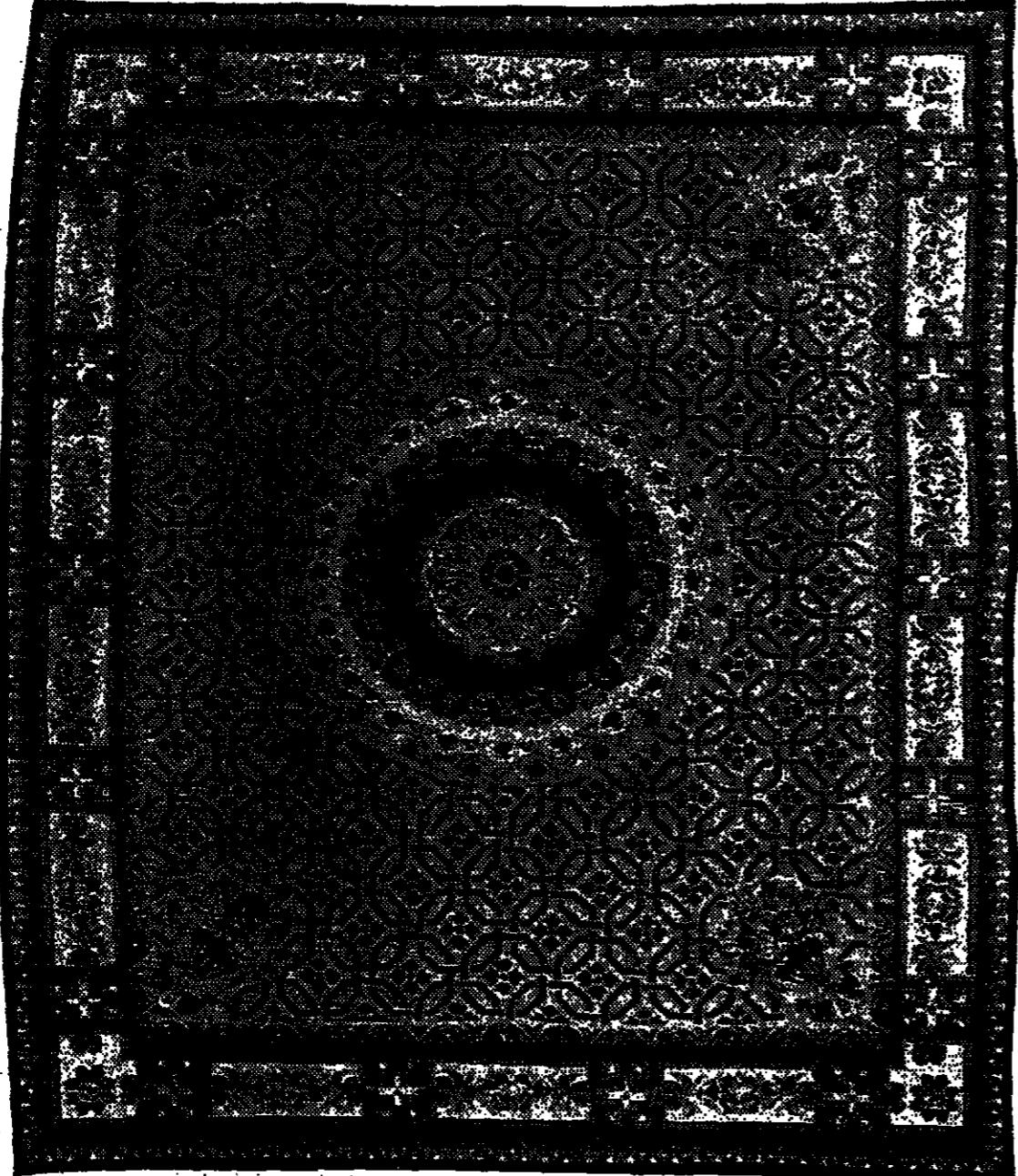
These days, she says, she spends a lot of her time on the family business: the Austin-based patchwork of radio and television stations as well as ranch lands established by her husband back in 1942. "During the week I live in a little apartment above the store, so to speak," she says. "Then on Fridays I go out to the ranch." Since giving it officially to the government in 1972 as a public site, Lady Bird makes the 60-mile drive to walk into a house that tourists have passed by all week long. "Three hundred thousand people a year come rolling by my front door," she says without a trace of resentment. "I wave to them if I'm there."

But Lady Bird is also involved with a project she started up two years ago, a project that grew out of a lifelong love and brings her, on this clear blue morning, to New York on a groundbreaking visit. She calls it the National Wildflower Research Center, and she means it to be a way

Please turn page

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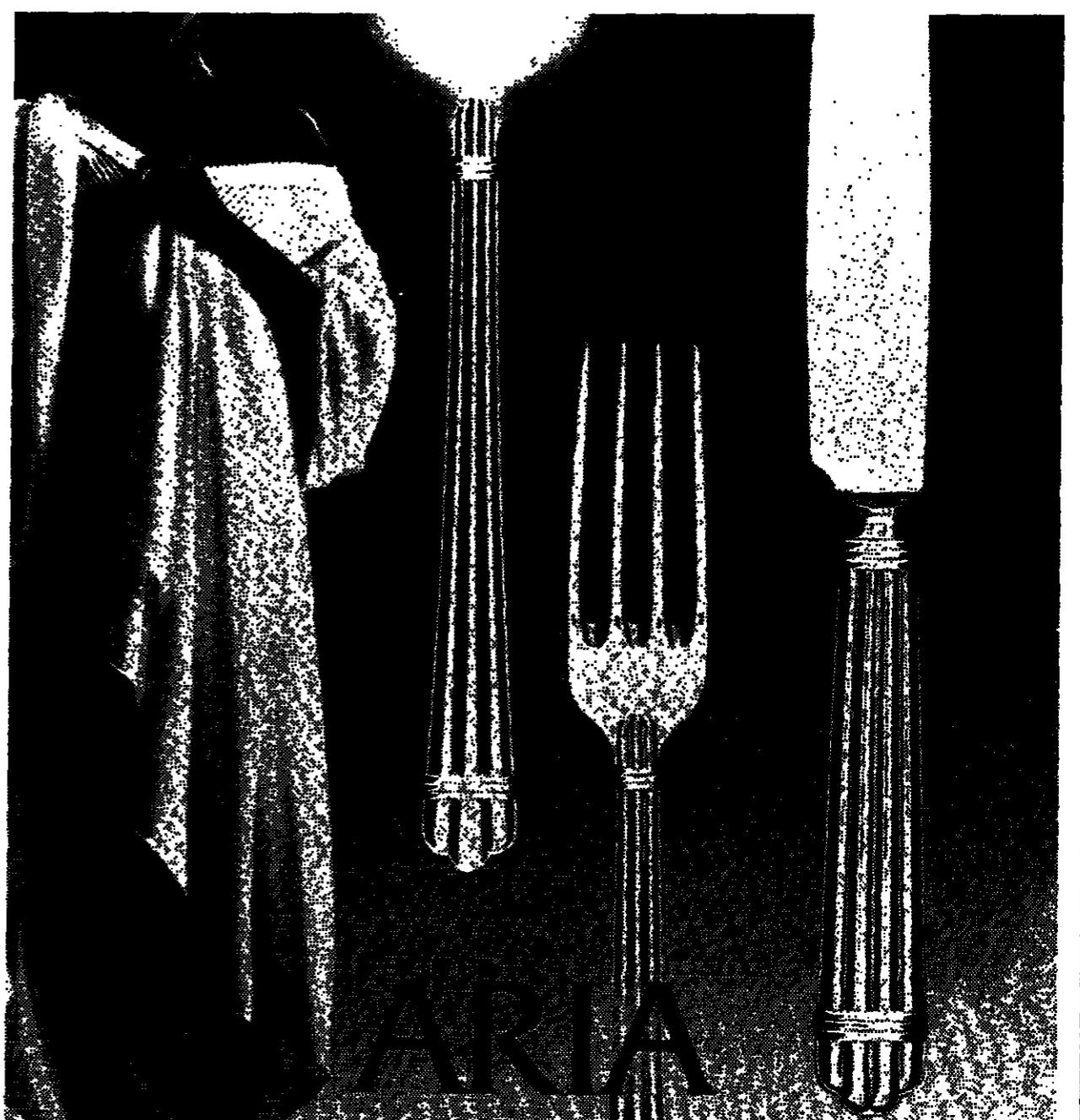


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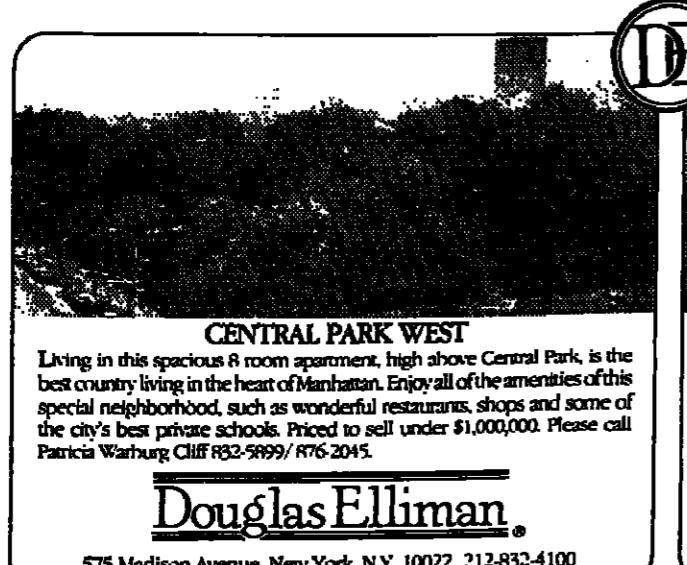
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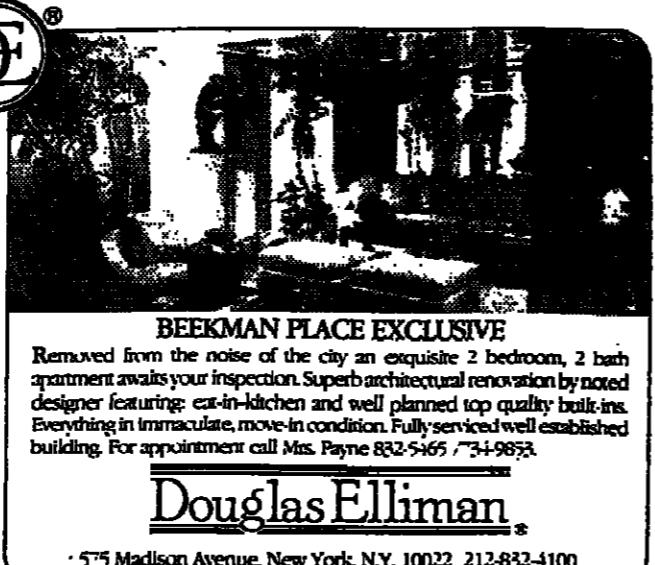
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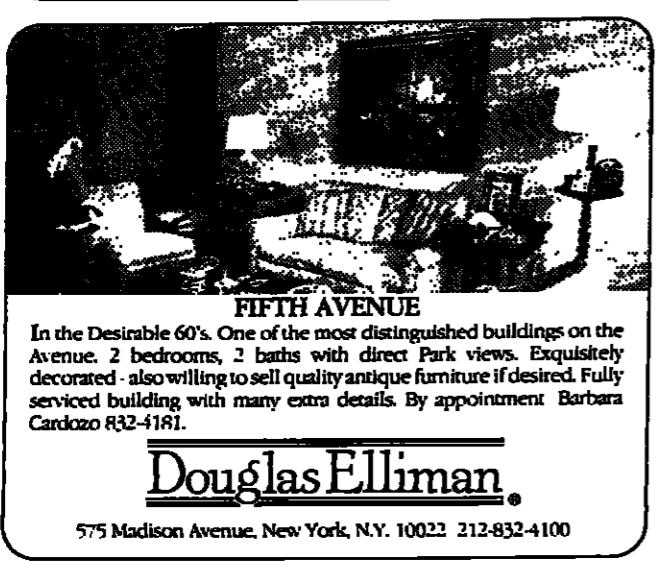
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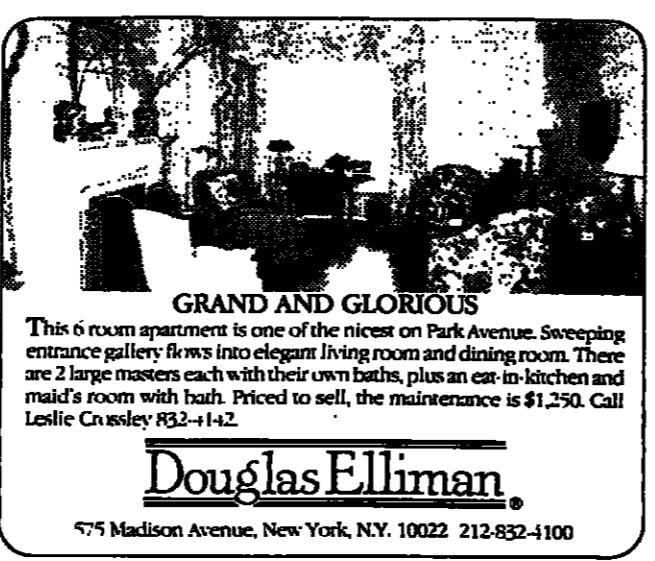
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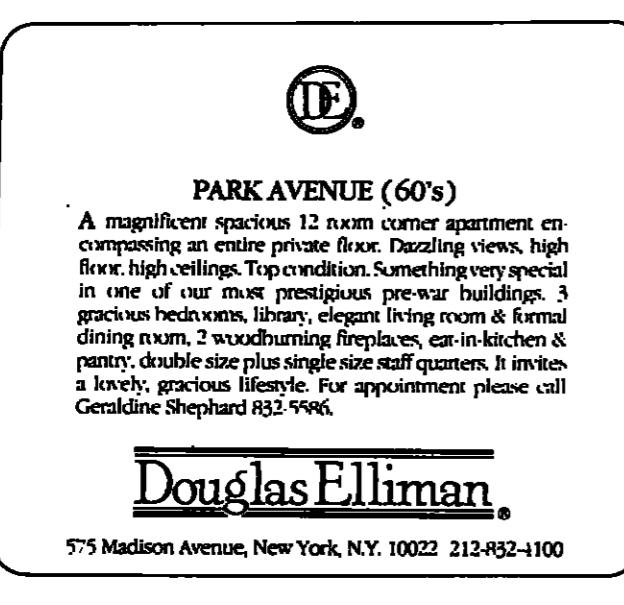
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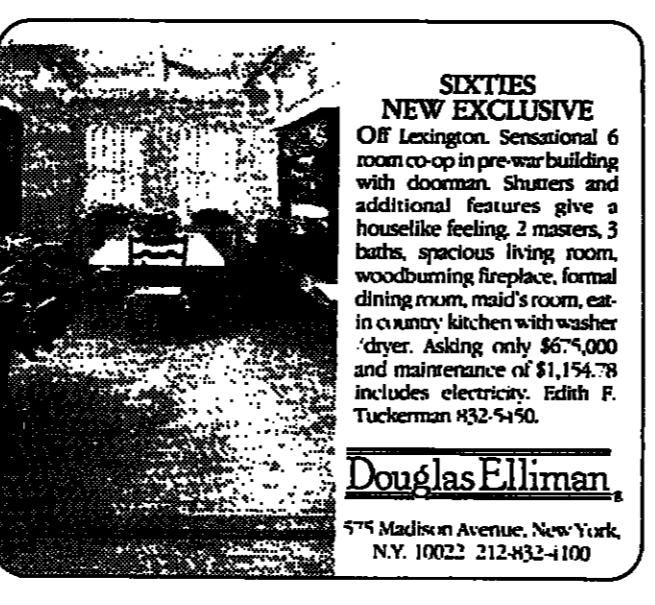
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## CALENDAR

## MAY

**14** The Society of Memorial Sloan-Kettering hosts its annual spring dinner-dance in the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel. This black-tie event includes a raffle drawing at Sloan-House. Cocktails begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 8:30. By invitation only. Fifth Avenue at 59th Street. For information, call (212) 794-7972.

**15** "An Evening in Vienna" is the theme of the New York Philharmonic's ball this evening at Lincoln Center. Cocktails at 6:30 precede dinner at 7:30. After dinner Zubin Mehta and the Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a program of waltzes in the Viennese tradition, led by dancers from the Joffrey Ballet School. Beginning at 10:30, the Michael Carney Orchestra will entertain for the remainder of the evening. Tickets are \$500. For information, call (212) 580-8700, ext. 381.

**16** The International Society of Interior Designers' New York chapter will host a black-tie benefit aboard the *Riveranda*. Cocktails begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$125. Pier 62, West 23rd Street and the Hudson River. For information, call (212) 752-2762.

The League of Women Voters of New York City will host its annual benefit luncheon today at noon in the Hotel Pierre. The Hon. John V. Lindsay will be the guest of honor. Tickets are \$150. Fifth Avenue at 61st Street. For information, call (212) 677-5050.

**18** The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary hosts its 15th annual Starlight Ball on the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Tickets are \$200. Park Avenue at 50th Street. For information, call (212) 598-1383.

**20** "A Tribute to Rita Hayworth" is the first national benefit of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre. Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, Miss Hayworth's daughter, will serve as general chairman. President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan will be the honorary patrons, and Count and Countess Frederic Chandon will be the benefactors. Film clips of Rita Hayworth's movies will be shown. Cocktails will begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 8:00. Tickets range from \$500 to \$1,000. Fifth Avenue at 61st Street. For information, call (212) 581-7370.

This evening at 8:00 Yale University will sponsor "From This Moment On/Yale Salutes Cole Porter" at Carnegie Hall, featuring works by several of America's top composers and a medley of Cole Porter songs sung by Lena Horne. Tickets are \$15. 154 West 57th Street. An after-theater supper with the cast will be held on the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Tickets for the performance and supper are \$500. Park Avenue at 50th Street. For information, call (212) 772-7431.

**21** Sotheby's hosts a cocktail reception and auction of pieces created by students of the Isabel O'Neil Studio Workshop in collaboration with such well-known designers as Mario Buatta, Michael de Santis and Ruben de Saavedra. The evening begins with cocktails at 6:00, followed by a silent auction at 7:30 with dinner and dancing afterward. Tickets for the black-tie reception and auction are \$50, \$150 for the entire evening. 1334 York Avenue. For information, call (212) 348-2120.

Lenox Hill Hospital will host its annual spring benefit at the Gershwin Theatre, featuring a preview performance of *Singing in the Rain* at 8:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$100 to \$200. 1633 Broadway. For information, call (212) 794-4507.

To celebrate its 36th anniversary, Just One Break will host the annual Tiffany Feather Ball in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre. Cocktails begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$200, and proceeds will aid this job placement agency for the disabled. Fifth Avenue at 61st Street. For information, call (212) 725-2500.

**22** "The Night of the Wild Flowers" is the theme of the National Wildflower Research Center's benefit dinner-dance at the Seventh Regiment Armory. Lady Bird Johnson and Helen Hayes serve as chairmen for this black-tie affair, and Bill Blass, Oscar de la Renta, Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller and Barbara Walters are among the members of the benefit committee. The cocktail reception begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 8:30 and dancing to the music of Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. Tickets range from \$300 to \$1,000. Park Avenue at 67th Street. For information, call (212) 650-6976.

**23** The Center for Inter-American Relations will hold its fifth annual spring party at Tavern on the Green this evening. Mr. and Mrs. David Rockefeller will serve as chairmen. Cocktails begin at 7:30, followed by dinner and dancing at 8:30. Central Park West at 67th Street. For information, call (212) 765-0850.

The New York City Ballet hosts its annual spring gala this evening, featuring a preview performance of a new Jerome Robbins ballet. The 8:00 benefit follows cocktails on the Terrace of the New York State Theatre. A champagne supper ball takes place on the Promenade after the show. Oscar de la Renta will chair the black-tie event, along with Mrs. Ahmet Ertegun, Mrs. Samuel P. Reed and Mrs. William F. Rayner. Tickets are \$350 to \$1,000. Lincoln Center. For information, call (212) 870-5676.

Maura Kinney

## FOOD

Continued from opening page

naires in their Central Park West apartment and giving away triple that amount in completed surveys. "It was Nina who finally suggested we at least try and make some money out of what was still essentially a hobby," Tim says. "Maybe we could sell a little booklet and write off a few meals. We didn't exactly expect to make a killing or take on the city's big-gum critics."

But momentum carried the day. Though they have yet to incorporate and still work out of their apartment, the Zagats—who now use a computer to organize their survey—seem poised for the start of a regular Zagat cottage industry. In addition to individual book sales at \$7.95 apiece, the Regency Hotel has begun offering the guide to VIP guests as an added amenity. A blue-bound, gold-edged deluxe edition suitable for corporate imprints is also available this year: the well-connected Zagats have marketed it to contacts at Citibank, Bloomingdale's, Morgan Stanley, Charles P. Young Company (which has ordered 3,000 copies) and several big law firms for distribution to clients, customers and staff members. There is talk of a separate composite survey for food emporiums, caterers, wine shops and mail-order catalogs, and Tim even hints that a major magazine has expressed interest in publishing a nationwide Zagat directory, or regional ones for various cities.

Despite their willingness to branch out, the Zagats are strongly opposed to enlarging either the guide's diminutive format or its selective voting. Says Tim: "We have to preserve the insider, clubby feeling the survey enjoys—otherwise it will begin to look like all the other overblown guides." Yet even a club has its limits. "Somebody wrote in suggesting that all of the Zagat reviewers get together once a year for a big dinner," he confides, somewhat uneasily. "What a nightmare that would be." Spoken like a man who truly knows the passions of 1,000 critics.

Allan Ripp

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Le Louvre des Antiquaires, in conjunction with the perfume, will be "du Parfum," an exhibition of fragrance-related items from major museums collections. Among on view are 17th- and 18th-century pieces and 18th-century scent burners. The latter is two pieces. Royal, Paris.

JUNE

he Mount Sinai Medical Center hosts a special "Night of Singing in the Gershwin Theatre" pretheater dinner at Tavern on the Green. Moore will serve as host. \$30 p.m. cocktail dinner at 6:15. Tickets, \$33 Broadway, Central at 67th Street. For info call (212) 650-0976.

he Center for Inter-Religious Relations will be annual spring party at the Green this evening. Mrs. David Rockefeller, as chairmen, cocktails at 7:30, followed by dancing at 8:30. Central at 67th Street. For info call (212) 765-0850.

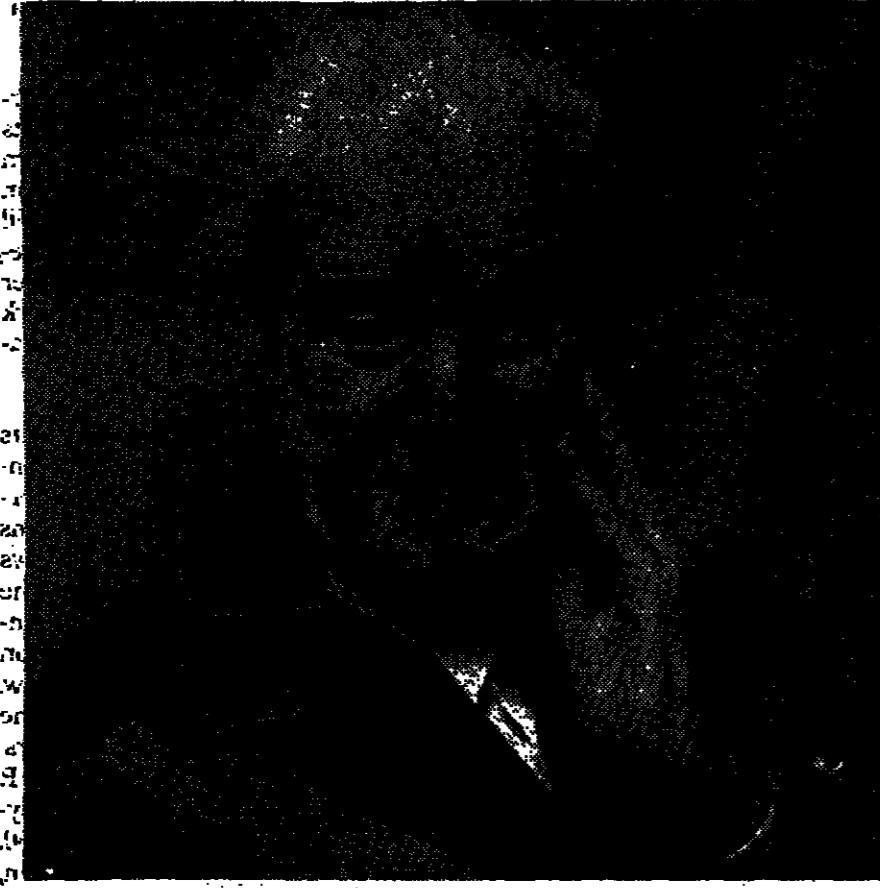
New York City Ballet's annual spring gala this featuring a preview of a new Jerome Robbins. The \$30 benefit details on the Terrace of the State Theatre. A supper ball takes place Promenade after the de la Renta will charitable event, along with et Ertegun. Mrs. Sam and Mrs. William Paley. Tickets are \$350 to \$100. Center. For info call (212) 870-8676.

## STYLE

## THE MAN WHO CAUGHT THE RICH AT PLAY

Jerome Zerbe's Sutton Place apartment in New York is much like him: elegant and full of memories. Its shelves contain a hundred volumes of 20,000 black-and-white photographs he took between 1933 and 1973. There are pictures of debutantes on sweeping lawns, of Grace Kelly on an early date with Rainier, of Jimmy Cagney celebrating New Year's Eve, Hedda Hopper clowning with Cary Grant and Brenda

great beauties of the 1930s and '40s often look foolish and ungainly to our eyes. But the Brenda Frazier, who stares from Zerbe's scrapbooks looks fresh and innocent and beautiful, like someone who could step from the pages of *Vogue* or *Harper's Bazaar* tomorrow. Part of this, no doubt, stems from Zerbe's reputation for never having kept an unflattering photograph: no crooked feet or wrinkled necks here.



For 40 years, Jerome Zerbe's camera captured nightlife in high society.

Frazier as the girl of the year.

Zerbe, now 80, is credited by many with having invented, in the 1930s, a new form of journalism, one that flourishes today in *Wear Daily* and *Women's Wear Daily*. He made an art form of candid shots of society people and movie stars in the most private of their public moments. Before Zerbe there were no such photographic records of the rich and famous at play. Like many revolutions, this one resulted from a confluence of technology and sociology. The perfecting of the flashbulb (long since outdated by the strobe) and faster films allowed photographers to work indoors, in relaxed, unposed settings. And Zerbe was, as he puts it, "an insider looking out," not as he describes one of today's society columnists, "a secretary...looking in" at what passes for society.

There is a special quality to Zerbe's photographs. In old movies and other archives the

editor, who bought a few. When *Parade* folded, Zerbe headed for New York to seek fame and fortune. He ran into Harry Bull on the street and was hired to photograph parties for *Town & Country* at \$150 a month.

Soon Zerbe had another job; he arranged to take parties of his friends to the new Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center. He would photograph his socially prominent friends, and the pictures would be supplied to society pages. For this, Zerbe would be paid \$75 a week, and, of course, there would be no tab for his elegant dinners. To celebrate, Zerbe stopped by El Morocco for a drink and was promptly hired to do the same thing for that nightclub, for an additional \$75 a week. John Perona, the owner of El Morocco, soon demanded Zerbe's undivided loyalty. "Perona told me," says Zerbe, "that what I'd save in taxi fares not going to the Rainbow Room would mean I'd be making more money."

For the next five years, between 1933 and 1938, Zerbe and his camera spent almost every night at El Morocco, introducing friends, eating, drinking and snapping photographs. "Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt used to come to El Morocco with a pile of hatboxes," he recalls. "She'd put on one different hat after another, and I'd photograph her in each." Mrs. Vanderbilt might not return to El Morocco for weeks, but she would still adorn the society pages, photographed on "different" evenings in El Morocco.

After wartime service as a Navy chief photographer, Zerbe returned to New York as society editor of *Town & Country*. But mostly he took pictures. He had the Jergens Lotion account and convinced his socialite friends they should appear in ads promoting the hand cream. Zerbe photographed the wedding of Babe Cushing Mortimer to William S. Paley and snapped Jacqueline Bouvier as a debutante. He photographed Firestone weddings and considered the coming-out party of Anne and Charlotte Ford the greatest spectacle he'd ever attended. Katherine Hepburn posed for a fashion shot on the lawn of Zerbe's Connecticut home, and Winston Churchill walked down to the edge of a beach in Jamaica so that Zerbe could pose him against the sunset.

All that has changed now. Zerbe says there is no society left, and so he wouldn't be interested in taking pictures. "At half the parties you see in *WWD*," he says, "the people wouldn't go, there wouldn't even be a party if they thought there wasn't going to be a photographer." Nonetheless, his pictures remain to jog our memory or encourage our fantasies of an earlier era. A Boswell with a camera, Zerbe has created a vivid record of a way of life gone by.

—Don Rosendale

## HERE &amp; THERE

Continued from opening page

of both celebrating and preserving the breathtaking variety of wildflowers that annually casts a rich embroidery across her native Texas and beyond. Abetted by a roster of Upper East Siders whose social and financial clout is awesome even in a city awash with benefit committees, Lady Bird is bringing her cause to the Seventh Regiment Armory on May 22 for a one-time gala evening that includes, for \$600, \$1,000 or \$2,000 a couple, dinner, dancing and, of course—an extravagant display of wildflowers.

For a First Lady who left Washington a legacy of tulips and a federal highway beautification program, and who in the process pointed the way for future First Ladies to champion a single civic cause, the National Wildflower Research Center is a logical next step. But when Lady Bird talks about wildflowers, the images that come first to mind are of her childhood in East Texas. "Nature has always been my relief and pleasure and joy," she says. "I grew up close to Caddo Lake, and I spent a lot of time alone walking

out through that mysterious country. There were winding sandy roads that had gnarled cypress trees dripping with Spanish moss. There were black-eyed Susans and wild roses on the fences in spring, and there were bluebonnets covering the hills, with Indian paintbrush sparkling them up like lipstick on a woman."

For all their natural beauty and the poetry so often evident in their nomenclature, wildflowers from Cinnabar Ladies' Tresses to Maiden Blue-eyed Mary have been taken for granted or thoughtlessly cleared as developers cut through the countryside. In her native Texas Lady Bird was saddened particularly to see state roadsides cleared of wildflowers, and public displays of "store-bought" flowers installed in shopping malls rather than the wild sprays of color indigenous to the surrounding land. In 1969, back from Washington, she established an annual prize, complete with barbecue party and live country music, for highway maintenance men who did the most to help preserve roadside wildflowers. It was with her

gift of 60 acres of land on the Colorado River in Central Texas near Austin, as well as \$125,000 (matched by Laurance Rockefeller), that the National Wildflowers Research Center was finally established. Its purpose, says Lady Bird, is twofold: "We want to encourage use in the landscape of plants, flowers and trees; and we want to maintain a clearinghouse to answer questions about what is being done where—the agricultural schools, the botanical gardens and so forth."

In the small talk that signals an interview's end, Lady Bird says she'll soon be visiting her daughter Lynda Robb in Virginia, who with husband Chuck has made her a grandmother three times over. She says she's 72 and seems not to mind that at all. She seems glad to be free of the difficult burden that history capriciously imposed on her, though she doesn't say that. And she seems, despite the round-the-clock company of the Secret Service agents who are vestiges of that history, despite the tour buses rolling by the ranch, to be very much alone. But she seems, as she has throughout her public life, to keep a bright light within: of strength, of spirit, of a rare, transcending grace.

—Michael Shrayer



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Desk: H. 80cm., L. 178cm., D. 85cm.  
Chair: H. 75cm., L. 67cm., D. 60cm.

Exceptional desk in dark pickled oak by Pierre Legrain, with its chair, which formerly belonged to the writer Maurice Martin du Gard, circa 1926.

The desk itself is a very beautiful object, a true museum piece in which Legrain's art stands out as a signature. (From the *Cahiers d'Art* 1928).

The heavy, iridescent, pickled oak sculptural object dominated the house of the writer Maurice Martin du Gard. Massive and robust, it symbolizes African art through the prism of Cubism. It is a perfect example of Pierre Legrain's art, a piece of furniture that goes well with the main works of the 1920s: "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon," a sculpture by Brancusi, a helmet mask from Gabon (i.e. the former collection of Paul Guillaume and Jacques Doucet). The external rusticity of this desk is only a better symbol of African art. Pierre Legrain's works were often unique, especially created for such personalities as Madame J. Tichard, Monsieur Pierre Meyer or the Viscount of Noailles.

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## Impressionist and Modern Paintings and Sculpture

Wednesday, May 15, 1985 at 7 p.m.  
Catalogue #5882, \$15 or \$17 if ordered by mail.



Paul Gauguin, *Conversation Tropiques (Négresses Canstant)*,  
signed and dated 87, oil on canvas,  
24 1/4 x 29 1/4 in. (61.5 x 76 cm.)  
To be sold on May 15 at  
Christie's in New York.



Georges Braque, *Violon et Verre*,  
signed on the reverse, painted in 1914,  
oil on canvas, 25 1/4 x 36 1/4 in.  
(64 x 92 cm.) To be sold on May 15 at  
Christie's in New York.

## Impressionist and Modern Paintings and Sculpture (Part II)

Thursday, May 16, 1985 at 2:30 p.m.  
Catalogue #5886, \$15 or \$17 if ordered by mail.



Jean Metzinger, *Portrait de Suzanne Phocaf*,  
signed, oil on canvas, 39 1/2 x 28 1/2 in. (100 x 73 cm.)  
To be sold on May 16  
at Christie's in New York.



Barbara Hepworth, *Hand Sculpture (with string)*,  
carved and polished cherry wood with string,  
29 1/2 in. high (70.5 cm.)  
To be sold on May 16  
at Christie's in New York.

## Impressionist and Modern Drawings and Watercolors

Thursday, May 16, 1985 at 10:30 a.m.  
Catalogue #5884, \$14 or \$16 if ordered by mail.



Edgar Degas, *Femme Nue, Le Pied Appuyé sur une Banquette*,  
stamped with signature (L. 658)—with atelier stamp (L. 657)  
on the reverse, drawn circa 1894,  
charcoal and pastel on paper,  
35 1/2 x 22 1/2 in.  
To be sold on May 16  
at Christie's in New York.



Fernand Léger, *Deux Personnages*,  
signed with initials and dated 29,  
brush and India ink on buff paper squared for transfer,  
20 x 12 1/2 in. (50.8 x 32 cm.)  
To be sold on May 16  
at Christie's in New York.

Auctions to be held in our galleries at 502 Park Avenue in New York.  
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Please request by catalogue number and make your check or money order  
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These exhibitions are on view in New York from May 9 through May 14.  
For further information, please contact  
Michael Findlay or Nancy Whyte at 212/546-1171.



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**Friday's  
AMEX  
Closing**

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere.  
*Via The Associated Press*

12 Month High Low	Stock	Div. Yld. PE	Sts. 100s	High Low	Close Quot. Chg/e
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## Over-the-Counter

May 10

**NASDAQ National Market Prices**

#### AMEX High-Lows

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May 1

**(Continued on Page 13)**

## Computers in China: Enthusiasm Outruns Expertise

(Continued from Page 9)  
by Chinese insistence — born of both pride and government policy — on maintaining by themselves the computers they import. Then there are other complications — outmoded but deeply ingrained work habits, training aimed at the wrong people, even the climate.

Li Xuxing, director of the General Office of the Computer Industry Administration, a branch of the Ministry of the Electronics Industry, conceded that maintenance is a "big problem." To combat it, he said, the China Computer Technical Service Corp., or CCTSC — an agency with 4,000 employees — has set up 41 training centers across the country, with plans to build 10 more.

The CCTSC has service branches in nearly every province, Mr. Li said. The People's Daily newspaper puts the number of computer-maintenance people in China at a scarce 20,000. The training they receive, foreign experts here say, is generally not yet adequate.

Representatives of computer companies here say that China's goal of servicing its computers with its own maintenance corps is unrealistic. They point out that relatively new buyers simply cannot be as efficient in diagnosing problems as the company that makes a particular model and regularly services it.

"When they buy computers, and many other kinds of technology, the Chinese generally insist on receiving extensive service training from the manufacturer. Their intention is to rely on the manufacturer for service only when absolutely necessary."

The Chinese also tend to insist that any training they get from the manufacturer be conducted overseas because, in the words of David Fong, Hewlett-Packard's China sales manager, such travel is a "lifet ime opportunity" for people who might otherwise never be able to visit a country such as the United States or Japan.

But this ultimate perk does not



The Associated Press  
A Chinese woman, dressed against the cold, at a computer shop in Beijing. Chinese users are not always able to provide the atmospheric controls needed for computers.

always go to the technicians who most logically should receive it. "Sometimes people who have nothing to do with computers are the ones sent overseas," said Mr. Fong. And one CCTSC engineer said all his training in the United States was on a U.S. computer that he has not touched since returning to China.

China's insistence on self-reliance extends to a refusal, for the most part, to buy "insurance contracts" — special warranties that extend beyond a manufacturer's normal guarantees. Chinese customers are willing to spend "tons of money" for repairs, Mr. Fong said, but they cannot understand insurance buying.

Given the Chinese approach, many foreign sales representatives here say the best solution to the maintenance difficulties may be some sort of innovative contract that somehow combines instruction for the Chinese with warranty features that will allow proper servicing and thereby preserve a manufacturer's reputation.

With all this there are also maintenance problems that simply reflect conditions in China. Electricity is subject to wide voltage surges and to blackouts, both of which can wreak havoc with computer systems. And the country can be extremely hot in summer or, in the north, suffer fierce dust storms

when sand blow down from the Gobi Desert each spring.

Chinese users are not always able to provide the special rooms and air-conditioning necessary to protect sensitive equipment.

Foreign experts here also cite the problem of old habits dying hard. For example, it is an article of faith that any machine should be turned off when not in use to save energy. Personal computers tend to be switched on and off many times in a work day. This wears down the equipment — and, according to most studies, does not save energy. But the practice continues.

Another question is just how much use China is getting out of its computers.

In an article last month, The People's Daily newspaper said: "Many users buy their computers in a hurry without first making the necessary preparations and end up leaving their machines idle" because they cannot find useful tasks for the machines. The article said there was a "serious waste problem."

An American salesman here recalls making a sales call to a Chinese institute and finding a \$750,000 computer already on the premises — unused. The maker had gone out of business and the institute had neither the knowledge nor the parts to repair it. The institute bought a new computer from the salesman. It hums along next to the idle machine.

The Chinese have not, for the most part, been innovative with the machines they use. In most other places of the world you might buy a computer for one or two reasons. Then two years later you are using it to do 16 other things," said David R. Keys, general sales manager of Control Data China Inc., a subsidiary of the Minnesota-based Control Data Corp. "I haven't seen much of that here."

But the consensus among foreign experts here is that for China, self-reliance is decades away.

## Over-the-Counter

May 10

NASDAQ National Market Prices

(Continued from Page 12)

Stocks in Net

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## ART BUCHWALD

## Which Side Are You On?

WASHINGTON — People are constantly asking me if the Reagan administration ever comes to me for personal advice. Up until last week the answer was "no."

But, lo and behold, the other day I received a letter that was in the form of a poll. It said the president wanted to know where I stood on the controversial issues of the day. I was urged to answer the list of unbiased questions that were enclosed.

Some of them weren't easy, such as, "In the 1970s funds were cut off for development of the MX missile, causing our strategic defenses to become dangerously obsolete while the Soviets escalated their weapons buildup. Do you support continued U.S. efforts to modernize our strategic defenses by funding this weapons system?" I was instructed to check off one of three boxes: "yes," "no" or "undecided."

I had no problem with that one. But the next one was a mind-bender. "Should the U.S. continue research and development of a space-based missile defense system to give the United States protection we do not now have against a Soviet nuclear attack?"

I took a gamble, and entered "yes."

The question that followed also required tremendous concentration. It said: "Do you agree with the Democrats who say the Soviet/Cuban efforts to topple pro-West governments in Central America pose no direct threat to U.S. security?"

I tried to figure out what answer the president would want to hear, and on a hunch said "no."

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